10th December 1923] [The President]

address to the Crown should *not* refer to a Bill pending in either House. The reason for this limitation is not far to seek; if a Bill is passed by Parliament and assented to by the Crown, it is perfectly open to a hostile majority, should it come into power, to repeal or alter such a Bill at a later date. If, as the hon. Member Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti appears to think, there is a majority in the present Council against the Hindu Religious Endowments Bill, the way is open to that majority to assert itself and have it repealed at a later stage even if it is in the meantime assented to by the Governor and agreed to by the Governor-General. But I am of the decided opinion that the Council should not *just now* intervene in the matter. I therefore rule that the motions of the hon. Member Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti as out of order."

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR ON THE MADRAS HINDU RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS BILL.

11-30 a.m. The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I have to convey to the Council a message from His Excellency the Governor—

'His Excellency the Governor has under section 81-A of the Government of India Act decided to return the Hindu Religious Endowments Bill to the Council for re-consideration with reference to parts of the Bill which will be duly notified to hon. Members.—WILLINGDON'."

[Opposition—Cheers] 9-12-23

XII

MOTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

MINIMUM PAY OF VILLAGE OFFICERS.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, I beg to move—

that this Council recommends to the Government that the minimum pay of village officers be fixed at Rs. 20.

"It may perhaps be surprising that I, who have been urging for retrenchment in the various public services, should make this motion for the increase of pay of the village officers. But I am one of those who think that, while we should always try to keep the Government expenditure at a proper limit, still there should be complete satisfaction on the part of the village officers of the Government and that the difference in pay between the higher classes and lower classes of the Government should be reduced as much as possible. I have always complained, both in this House and outside it, that the pay of an officer in an office is much larger than the pay of all the establishment under his charge put together. Take for instance the district and sessions judge. His pay will be about Rs. 3,000 and the next man, viz., the sarishtadar, will be getting only Rs. 200 and all the other servants in that office put together will be drawing about Rs. 700 or 800, so that the whole establishment will be getting very much less than what the one individual, the head of the office, will be getting. This, I submit, is a thing which should be put an end to. If we want that the discontent among the lower services should be reduced and if possible removed, we must try to reduce the difference in the salaries of the higher and the lower officers. This can be done only in two ways: by levelling down or by levelling up. It may even be done by both. I would divide this subject into two aspects, namely, the desirability and necessity of enhancing the salaries of the village officers and the financial aspect. So far as the pay of the village officers is concerned, it is very low compared with